NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Thruway Authority | Canal Corporation

September 22, 2015

Kevin Farrar
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7010

RE: Phase 2 Sediment Processing Facility Demobilization and Restoration Plan

Dear Mr. Farrar:

The New York State Canal Corporation (Corporation) has reviewed General Electric's Phase 2 Sediment Processing Facility Demobilization and Restoration Plan (Decommissioning Plan) dated September 2015 and offers the following comments:

1) **Page 6, 1.3 Property Access Arrangements: Restoration Requirements:** The previous southern access from East Street to Lock 8 should be restored.

2) **Page 8, 1.4 Future Property Use and Post-Restoration Conditions, Sixth Bullet:** This bullet states: "Asphalt pavement and underlying materials in the size separation area will remain in place if agreed upon with property owner." For lands formerly owned by the Corporation and likely to be returned to the Corporation, the Corporation agrees that asphalt pavement and underlying materials may remain in place, provided such use does not require an institutional control or result in contamination remaining on-site.

3) **Page 8, 1.4 Future Property Use and Post-Restoration Conditions, Last Bullet:** Please confirm that the remaining drainage swales (post asphalt removal) will be included in the evaluation of existing stormwater management features described in **Section 6 - Restoration** and will be modified if necessary to prevent sedimentation and erosion.

4) **Page 9, 1.4 Future Property Use and Post-Restoration Conditions, Fifth Bullet:** This bullet states: "Where impervious surfaces are removed, the underlying Flexible Membrane Liner (FML) (where present) will be removed, but sub-base stone and sand materials above the FML may remain on-site if sampling confirms that the materials are designated for unrestricted use."

   In the event sections of impervious material are removed, due to contamination, the section should be restored to match surrounding grade and material. If a decontamination method,

such as scarification, results in substantial modification of the surface layer potentially leaving it unsuitable for its intended use the damaged surface should be restored.

5) **Page 9, 1.4 Future Property Use and Post-Restoration Conditions, Last Bullet:** If third parties (e.g., WCC) are planning to utilize the potable water at the wharf in the future, a water permit will be required.

6) **Page 10, 1.4 Future Property Use and Post-Restoration Conditions:** Although the SPF Demobilization Plan does not specifically address the access road to Lock 8, it is stated that the access road is expected to be transferred to a local municipal entity. If this transfer occurs the municipality will be responsible to maintain the road (including snow removal). Maintenance will also include the bridge used on Lock 8 Way.

7) **Page 20, 2.3.8 Flexible Membrane Liner:** Has water collected in the underdrain collection system? If water has collected in the system, has it been sampled to determine the potential for contamination to the drainage layer?

8) **Page 30, 3.3 Facility Decontamination Criteria:** The second to last paragraph in this section states: "Residual PCB concentrations remaining following decontamination activities will be evaluated in consultation with EPA and the property owners. Protective clean up criteria will be developed that consider baseline environmental conditions and future property use."

   The 2006 New York State Canal Corporation Baseline Characterization detected total PCBs in only 3 of 22 soil samples. The Corporation does not support the use of institutional controls (i.e., deed restriction, easement, or notice) to allow contaminated material to remain on-site. Use of BUD approved material or PCB contaminated material (including PCB concentrations less than 1 mg/kg) as on-site fill is not consistent with the original condition of the property. Only materials exhibiting non-detect concentrations for PCBs should be allowed to remain on-site.

9) **Page 36, 3.7 Decontamination and Removal of Asphalt and Concrete Materials:** The second paragraph discusses decontamination of asphalt and concrete. If sections of asphalt or concrete are removed they should be restored to match the surrounding grade. See comment #4.

10) **Page 37, 3.7 Decontamination and Removal of Asphalt and Concrete Materials:** As stated in comment #8, the Corporation does not support the re-use of PCB contaminated material.

11) **Page 38, Decontamination and Removal of Stormwater Drainage Piping and Structures:** See comment #7 regarding sampling of water in the underdrain collection system.

12) **Page 39, Decontamination and Removal of Stormwater Drainage Piping and Structures:** The second paragraph states: "If this evaluation determines that the drainage system cannot be adequately decontaminated, the drainage system structures and piping will be removed and will

not be replaced." If the drainage system is removed the area should be restored to match the surrounding grade and material.

13) **Page 39, Decontamination and Removal of Stormwater Basins and Pump Stations:** This section states that contaminated crushed materials may be re-used on-site. As stated in comment #8, the Corporation does not support the re-use of PCB contaminated material on-site.

14) **Page 40, Decontamination and Abandonment of Stormwater Force Main Piping:** The ends of the stormwater force main should be removed to a sufficient distance from any stormwater retention features that may remain on-site prior to grouting or plugging, in order to prevent potential failure of the capped/plugged end and defeat of stormwater retention feature(s).

15) **Page 41, Subsurface Sub-base Layer and Sand Layer:** This section states that contaminated sub-base stone and sand materials may be re-used on-site. As stated in comment #8, the Corporation does not support the re-use of PCB contaminated material on-site.

16) **Page 42, Flexible Membrane Liner:** Please clarify whether this section applies if limited sections of impervious surfaces are removed (e.g., if a 10' by 10' section of pavement is removed will the FML be cut and removed to match?). If a limited section of impervious surface is removed, the sub-base should be tested, removed as necessary and restored to match the surrounding surface. If material below the FML is clean the FML should be left in place.

17) **Page 44, Material Characterization:** The third paragraph states that contaminated bulk materials may be used as on-site fill. As stated in comment #8, the Corporation does not support the re-use of PCB contaminated material on-site on-site.

18) **Page 45, Disposition Methods:** As stated in comment #8, the Corporation does not support the re-use of PCB contaminated material on-site. Contaminated material should be properly disposed of off-site.

19) **Page 47, Post-Decontamination Environmental Site Assessment, Third Bullet:** Sediment sampling should be conducted in the Champlain Canal at locations substantially similar to the baseline samples shown on Figure2-3, in addition to the three sediment samples currently proposed.

20) **Page 58, 2. North Unloading Wharf/Size Separation Area:** This sequence specifies that contaminated major equipment will be staged on previously washed pavement. Once washed, areas should not be subject to recontamination. At a minimum, an effort should be made to stage contaminated material in unwashed areas or on a barrier (e.g., polyethylene sheeting).

21) **Page 58, 4. South Unloading Wharf/Size Separation Area and Force Main Piping:** Please clarify why 'Water flushing of process piping' is being conducted in a different order from #2. Also, see comment #20 regarding staging of contaminated equipment on washed areas.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James E. Candiloro, P.E.
Director of Environmental Affairs

ec: W. Shaw - NYSDEC